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**UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY
ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH CANADA ON BARLEY TRQ**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky announced today an agreement with Canada under which Canada agreed to suspend application of its tariff-rate quota (TRQ) on barley and barley containing products from the United States. The Canadian TRQ will remain in place for imports from all other countries.

“Canada’s action today is a good first step in addressing the concerns of our grain exporters and in leveling the playing field with Canada,” said Barshefsky. “However, many barriers which hinder our farmers’ access to the Canadian market remain. We will continue to press Canada to open its market to U.S. agricultural products on reciprocal and fair terms.”

In April 1997, Ambassador Barshefsky visited Minot, North Dakota, where local farmers expressed concern about the lack of reciprocal access to the Canadian market, specifically citing, among other issues, their frustration with Canada’s TRQ on barley and barley products. Following this visit, Ambassador Barshefsky pressed Canada to eliminate its TRQ on barley and barley products and other measures that restrict US exports to Canada.

“Agricultural products are America’s top export, accounting for nearly ten percent of our total merchandise exports, and supporting nearly one million U.S. jobs,” said Barshefsky. “This Administration will continue to break down trade barriers to U.S. agricultural goods and ensure that U.S. agriculture producers and workers -- the most efficient, innovative and competitive in the world -- have access to the growing markets throughout the world.”